

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Mr. Speaker and members, once again, I think Senator Kristensen started out the morning very correctly for all of us. On these issues, we don't like talking about them, and we have to depend on our friends and stuff like that, and just as soon not have to deal with them. But the fact is that we do. And if you look at the 2 1/2 hours of debate this morning on this bill, I think you need to...several things will come out. Probably the most important thing that is going to come out, the opponents of this measure have used...I mean have not talked that much about the bill itself. They've talked about concerns over optometrists' scope being expanded at all. Many of their speeches, I think, were much more...all were aimed at, by what they are saying, on expansion of scope in the glaucoma area and things like that. As is often the case in the Legislature, we have to make decisions on what is before us here today, and 429 is the bill that is before us here today in the Legislature, and with the committee amendments gives a slight change in what optometrists are allowed to prescribe in the area of oral medications. That is all 429 is. It doesn't give them the ability to do laser surgery. It is not akin to a GP doing heart surgery. It is a slight expansion to give them similar prescriptive authority to dentists and podiatrists. We went through time, and time again how the "expert" both of the State Health Department, with the exception of the Director of Health, and our resident experts in the Legislature, the Health Committee, on health issues, and I stand corrected, Senator Bernard-Stevens, on health issues. On monetary issues, well, I am not always in agreement with them, absolutely right. But the fact is when you look at that, I have a very high comfort level with 429. It's not, and nobody in this body ever really made a good argument you are jeopardizing anyone's health by passing 429, in the slight expansion it gives in the area of oral medications, because they are already giving the topical medications. Many of the concerns that were, of the 2 1/2 hours, the few minutes the opponents talked about, talking about oral medications and the concerns they had were already there in topical meds that were given in '79, the same arguments were given in '79. Fifteen years have passed and those horror stories never came true. Simple, there's been more than enough debate. I simply ask advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Members we are under call. Please take your seats so that we may proceed with the vote.

SENATOR MOORE: A roll call vote in reverse order.